

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 A method comprising:

displaying a plurality of rows and at least one column in a matrix on a display
5 screen, wherein the at least one column comprises a first set of fields and a second set of
fields, wherein the first set of fields and the second set of fields comprise one or more
mathematical operators and one or more numeric values, wherein each set of fields is
displayed in columnar format down the plurality of rows in the at least one column, and
wherein the at least one column comprises a single column label which spans the width of
10 one of the first set of fields and one of the second set of fields;

automatically calculating a result by applying the mathematical operators to the
numeric values;

displaying the result on the display screen;

entering user input to hide one of the sets of fields; and

15 redisplaying the at least one column by displaying the plurality of fields except for
the hidden set of fields.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving user input to show the hidden set of fields; and

20 redisplaying the at least one column by displaying all of the sets of fields.

3. The method of claim 1,

wherein the at least one of the columns which comprises the first set of fields and
a second set of fields further comprises a third set of fields.

25

4. The method of claim 1,

wherein the single column label is displayed at the top of the at least one column.

5. The method of claim 4,
wherein a first field label is displayed for the first set of fields below the single
column label; and
wherein a second field label is displayed for the second set of fields in a same row
5 as the first field label below the single column label.
6. The method of claim 1,
wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more operation fields which
display one or more mathematical operators.
- 10 7. The method of claim 1,
wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more operation fields which
display one or more mathematical operators.
- 15 8. The method of claim 1,
wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more number fields which display
one or more numeric values.
9. The method of claim 1,
20 wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more number fields which
display one or more numeric values.
10. The method of claim 1,
wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more comment fields which
25 display one or more comment strings.
11. The method of claim 1,

wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more comment fields which display one or more comment strings.

12. The method of claim 1,

5 wherein the displaying the plurality of rows and the at least one column comprises displaying a plurality of rows and at least two columns comprising a second column, wherein the second column comprises a third set of fields and a fourth set of fields, wherein the third set of fields and the fourth set of fields comprise a second set of one or more mathematical operators and a second set of one or more numeric values, and
10 wherein the third set of fields and fourth set of fields are displayed in columnar format down the plurality of rows in the second column; and

wherein the method further comprises:

automatically calculating a second result by applying the second set of mathematical operators to the second set of numeric values; and

15 displaying the second result on the display screen.

13. A system comprising:

a CPU;

a display screen coupled to the CPU;

20 a memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions which are executable by the CPU to:

display a plurality of rows and at least one column in a matrix on the display screen, wherein the at least one column comprises a first set of fields and a second set of fields, wherein the first set of fields and the second set of fields comprise
25 one or more mathematical operators and one or more numeric values, wherein each set of fields is displayed in columnar format down the plurality of rows in the at least one column, and wherein the at least one column comprises a single column label which spans the width of one of the first set of fields and one of the second set of fields;

automatically calculate a result by applying the mathematical operators to the numeric values;

display the result on the display screen;

receive user input to hide one of the sets of fields; and

5 redisplay the at least one column by displaying the plurality of fields except for the hidden set of fields.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

10 receive user input to show the hidden set of fields; and

redisplay the at least one column by displaying all of the sets of fields.

15. The system of claim 13,

15 wherein the at least one of the columns which comprises the first set of fields and a second set of fields further comprises a third set of fields.

16. The system of claim 13,

wherein the single column label is displayed at the top of the at least one column.

20 17. The system of claim 16,

wherein a first field label is displayed for the first set of fields below the single column label; and

wherein a second field label is displayed for the second set of fields in a same row as the first field label below the single column label.

25

18. The system of claim 13,

wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more operation fields which display one or more mathematical operators.

19. The system of claim 13,
wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more operation fields which display one or more mathematical operators.

5

20. The system of claim 13,
wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more number fields which display one or more numeric values.

10 21. The system of claim 13,
wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more number fields which display one or more numeric values.

22. The system of claim 13,
15 wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more comment fields which display one or more comment strings.

23. The system of claim 13,
wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more comment fields which
20 display one or more comment strings.

24. The system of claim 13,
wherein the displaying the plurality of rows and the at least one column comprises displaying a plurality of rows and at least two columns comprising a second column,
25 wherein the second column comprises a third set of fields and a fourth set of fields, wherein the third set of fields and the fourth set of fields comprise a second set of one or more mathematical operators and a second set of one or more numeric values, and

wherein the third set of fields and fourth set of fields are displayed in columnar format down the plurality of rows in the second column; and

wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

automatically calculate a second result by applying the second set of mathematical

5 operators to the second set of numeric values; and

display the second result on the display screen.

25. A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a computer to implement:

10 displaying a plurality of rows and at least one column in a matrix on a display screen, wherein the at least one column comprises a first set of fields and a second set of fields, wherein the first set of fields and the second set of fields comprise one or more mathematical operators and one or more numeric values, wherein each set of fields is displayed in columnar format down the plurality of rows in the at least one column, and
15 wherein the at least one column comprises a single column label which spans the width of one of the first set of fields and one of the second set of fields;

automatically calculating a result by applying the mathematical operators to the numeric values;

displaying the result on the display screen;

20 receiving user input to hide one of the sets of fields; and

redisplaying the at least one column by displaying the plurality of fields except for the hidden set of fields.

26. The carrier medium of claim 25, wherein the program instructions are further
25 executable by the computer to implement:

receiving user input to show the hidden set of fields; and

redisplaying the at least one column by displaying all of the sets of fields.

27. The carrier medium of claim 25,
wherein the at least one of the columns which comprises the first set of fields and
a second set of fields further comprises a third set of fields.

5 28. The carrier medium of claim 25,
wherein the single column label is displayed at the top of the at least one column.

29. The carrier medium of claim 28,
wherein a first field label is displayed for the first set of fields below the single
10 column label; and
wherein a second field label is displayed for the second set of fields in a same row
as the first field label below the single column label.

30. The carrier medium of claim 25,
15 wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more operation fields which
display one or more mathematical operators.

31. The carrier medium of claim 25,
wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more operation fields which
20 display one or more mathematical operators.

32. The carrier medium of claim 25,
wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more number fields which display
one or more numeric values.

25 33. The carrier medium of claim 25,
wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more number fields which
display one or more numeric values.

34. The carrier medium of claim 25,
wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more comment fields which
display one or more comment strings.

5

35. The carrier medium of claim 25,
wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more comment fields which
display one or more comment strings.

10 36. The carrier medium of claim 25,
wherein the displaying the plurality of rows and the at least one column comprises
displaying a plurality of rows and at least two columns comprising a second column,
wherein the second column comprises a third set of fields and a fourth set of fields,
wherein the third set of fields and the fourth set of fields comprise a second set of one or
15 more mathematical operators and a second set of one or more numeric values, and
wherein the third set of fields and fourth set of fields are displayed in columnar format
down the plurality of rows in the second column; and

wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to
implement:

20 automatically calculating a second result by applying the second set of
mathematical operators to the second set of numeric values; and
displaying the second result on the display screen.